

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6849

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7848

FOR ATHERTON FROM BYROADE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: KISSINGER VISIT

1. AS THE HOURS GO BY I AM GETTING MORE AND MORE CONCERNED THAT WE MAY UNNECESSARILY BE HEADED FOR A REAL BLOW-UP WITH BHUTTO OVER THE PESHAWAR MATTER, AND STRONGLY URGE THAT WE ACQUIESCE. IF IT IS NOT TOO LATE, PLEASE CONSIDER FOLLOWING AFTERTHOUGHTS IN CONNECTION WITH MY EARLIER MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY.

2. THERE IS A DANGER HERE THAT BHUTTO MIGHT COMPLETELY MISUNDERSTAND OUR OBJECTIONS TO PESHAWAR, AND WONDER WHETHER WE MIGHT NOT BE SHIFTING POLICY TO ONE OF TRUE NEUTRALITY ON THE LONG SMOULDERING PUSHTUNISTAN DISPUTE. THIS WOULD OF COURSE NOT BE TRUE, AND WOULD BE CONTRARY TO LONG HELD U.S. POLICY ESTABLISHED DECADES AGO. HE COULD, IN HIS ISOLATION IN BALUCHISTAN, WORK THIS ALL AROUND IN HIS MIND TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH HIM PUBLICLY IN HIS OWN FRONTIER PROVINCE. I THINK I NEED NOT SPELL THIS OUT FURTHER.

3. ALSO I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT MY OWN OBJECTION TO PESHAWAR WAS NEVER NEARLY AS STRONG AS NATHIAGALI, ALTHOUGH I REALIZE NOW MY FIRST MESSAGE COULD HAVE GIVEN THIS IMPRESSION. (I DIDN'T THINK AT THAT TIME I WOULD HAVE MUCH TROUBLE TALKING THEM OUT OF PESHAWAR.) ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN A NIGHTMARE ADMINISTRATIVELY, MY REAL
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OBJECTION TO NATHIAGALI WAS THE FEAR THAT THE CHOPPER-

WEATHER-TIME COMBINATION MIGHT SUBJECT THE SECRETARY AND HIS FAMILY TO SAFETY HAZZARDS WHICH I DID NOT LIKE. THERE ARE NO SUCH CONSIDERATIONS OF COURSE AS REGARDS PESHAWAR.

4. LASTLY, I REALIZE YOU MUST DEPEND ON TED ELIOT FOR THE AFGHAN REACTION. MY VIEWS MAY NOT BE PERTINENT AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, BUT THE ACTORS ARE STILL THE SAME AS WHEN I WAS THERE, AND MY GUESS IS THAT ANY AFGHAN REACTION ON THE LEVEL OF DAOUD AND NAIM TO THIS WOULD REMAIN HIDDEN AND NOT EXPRESSED. THEY WOULD BE ON AN AWKWARD WICKET INDEED TO TRY TO MAKE ANY OFFICIAL PROTEST OVER THE MATTER. I DON'T BELIEVE THEY WOULD DO SO ANYWAY UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS AS IT WOULD RISK BLOWING TOO MANY OTHER THINGS.

5. ONE LAST THOUGHT. THE PRESIDENT OF MAURITANIA WILL BE HERE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE SECRETARY AND THE PAKS HAVE BEEN GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES AS TO HOW TO SHUTTLE HIM OUT OF SIGHT AND NOT LET PATHS CROSS. WHETHER THIS IS A FACTOR AT ALL IN THIS TANGLED MESS, I DO NOT KNOW, BUT THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT IT MIGHT BE.
BYROADE

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